SORENSEN OF THE SOUTH SEAS LOSES

ADVENTURER SUED 'THE SUN'

Records of Many Years **Ago From Savage Lands** Confronted Him.

Twelve New York jurors sitting in the eld Tweed court house have been listening for five days to stories from the South Seas. They heard witnesses produced by THE SUN in defense of a suit for \$100.000 story of damages for libel brought by Capt. Nels

P. Sorensen, South Sea trader and treasure hunter, based on an article published when Sorensen came here three years ago to raise money for an expedition to find a supposed sunken treasure of \$15. find a supposed sunken treasure of \$15,-

No jury in New York probably was listened with all their souls and came back gladly day after day to hear more. They retired from Supreme Court Justice McCall's court room on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. At 9 o'clock that night they had not agreed and were discharged.

After the jury had reported to Justice McCall vesterday morning it was learned unofficially that six of the jurors had insisted on a verdict for the defendant on the ground that all the statements published were justified, while the other six held out for a nominal verdict of history of Capt. Sorensen it had failed to furnish technical proof of all the published statements. The case was sent back to the calendar to be set for trial as soon as the plaintiff elects, and on the

The preparation of the case has occupied Shearman & Sterling, THE SUN'S attorneys, and Herbert C. Smyth, trial counsel, the greater part of two years, and in that time dozens of depositions have been taken for the plaintiff and defendant. The task of defending a case which was based on happenings in the South Sea islands fifteen and twenty-five years ago might in some instances have caused a defendant to effect a settlement with the plaintiff at the lowest possible figure, justified and that it had a duty to the pub lic to expose the contemplated expedition of Capt. Sorensen with the money of New

A morning newspaper in July, 1908 announced the arrival here of Capt. Nels P. Sorensen, and said that he was here with a map showing where \$20,000,000 in gold bullion lay buried on the bottom of ocean and was organizing an expedition to go after the treasure, which he expected would return successful within

a picture of Capt. Sorensen. "The Sun's" Sorensen Story

In the routine of THE SUN office the clipping containing the story was sent to the desk of William Churchill, an asso ciate editor, to be filed away for reference. He recognized the picture at once as that of a Capt. Nels P. Sorensen who had had an interesting history in the South Sea islands, in part of which history Mr. Churchill had figured. Mr. Churchill was the only man in this country who knew this history. At his suggestion a reporter was assigned to find Capt. Sorensen, and the following article was pub lished on July 16, 1908:

Romance on the wings of the Southern trades, heavy with the odors of the sea islands and spiced with the lure of gold. comes sifting over New York. Hungry cravers after the fortuitous and the provi dential have scented the spice in this fair wind, sensed the glint of the gold and unerringly followed the trail to a modest boarding house at 143 East Twenty-first stree Romance also stops at this modest board-

ing house and there rests upon the white who come learn from the wreathed one has lain sunk these forty years in a subhas lain sunk these forty years in a subterranean cavern off the west coast of Auckland Isle, 'way down below the line somewhere. Twenty millions in gold bars and minted guineas lie in the watery hold of that treasure ship, all packed in boxes of steel. The bare bones of 169 men lying there in the sea about the wreck guard the secret, which of the living only Capt.

pany-to go out to Auckland Isle and dive of the company is not quite complete; there is still room for a few others. All stockholders who want to go along and see the strong boxes bulging with guineas and bars of virgin gold come up from the depths will be leaving New York soon with Cent. Sorensen to make the long journey Capt. Sorensen to make the long journey years.

There the When these men learned that Sorensen's When these men learned that Sorensen's to Dunedin.

thence the cruise of the argonauts will make its final lap.

Capt. Sorensen is a busy man these days and one hard to see. When a Sux man and one hard to see. When a Sux man argument seeking details of the captain's life and times he was met at the door by a dark smooth speaking gentleman who regretted had been greatly to the annoyance of the head of the Auckland Isle treasure hunt, said this lieutenant. Yes, he would answer

had been greatly to the annoyance of the no gold: everything was buncombe, as the two men in Apia had warned.

But the sequel to that trip Sandy McLean

Islands? Why, yes; he was most familiar with the Solomon Islands; lived there off and on for some time in fact.

Did Capt. Sorensen go to the Solomons

in 1898? Doubtless he did. In fact there was no doubt that he did. Capt. Sorensen once got into trouble with the British Government because he tried to be king over one of the Solomons. Capt. Sorense had dived for pearl shell in the Solomons

often.

Did Capt. Sorensen know one Aleck,
otherwise known as Sandy, McLean, once
owner of the fleet schooner Sophia Sutherowner of the fleet schooner Sophia Sutherland? Why, come to think of it. Capt. Sorensen did know Sandy McLean met him down in the South Sea when he was commanding the Sophia Sutherland, but him there. Capt. Sorensen's lieutenant wanted to know

pany.

Nothing but the whimsey of romance could have dictated the circumstance that here in New York there is one and out somewhere in the vicinity of Victoria, B. C. there is another who knows the story of a Capt. Sorensen, South Sea adventurer. This Capt. Sorensen has also been a familiar Stories of Wild Days in the Pacific Enthrall a New York Jury.

This Capt. Sorensen has also been a familiar figure in the Solomon Islands: he has also dived for pear shell there; he has even been in trouble with the British Government. Most singular quip of romance it is too that the knowing one in Victoria, B. C., should be Sandy McLean, seal poacher and pirate, who only once in his lifetime met a man who was his superior in guile, and that man was this same Capt. Sorensen Without reference to the beguiling trade that blows about the region of Gramercy Park, let the riotous story of this Sorensen, intimate of Sandy McLean and the one man

intimate of Sandy McLean and the one man in New York who knows, be told.

In the early days of thirty-odd years ago when the South Seas were known only to the whaler and the daring trader whose ship was always armed to repel man eating natives the Solomons, then unattached to any European Government, were the fairest fields south of the line for men who sought desperate adventure and gold. Not long after the infamous Bully Hayes departed the South Pacific with his honors of plunder and murder there appeared a pearl diver. Nels Sorensen, who had once pearl diver, Nels Sorensen, who had once served in the American navy and who had only a smattering knowledge of naviga-

It was in Melbourne in 1883 that this Dane came from.

This Sorensen formed a joint stock com-pany of folks about Melbourne and they chartered the Port Philip pilot schooner ever so entertained with proved incidents. Albert, hired a master, shipped a small of wild life in wild lands, and the twelve crew and were sway for the Solomon pearly banks. When the group was reached this Sorensen with his very limited knowledge of navigation felt able to follow the course of the channels, drove the crew in the fore-castle with the help of a revolver and turned the captain, who happened to be the heaviest stockholder, adrift in a dingy. This was just outside one of the small

harbors in the archipelago. Sorensen navi-gated his boat into the harbor and when some of the natives swarmed aboard he treated them well and through them sent word to the chief that he wished to entertain

The chief came aboard with many of his followers. Then Sorenson, after aming the chief below to drink some gin, secured that worthy firmly with ropes. He cam 6 cents for the plaintiff, because while on deck with a rifle, and every manjack of the chief's followers went over the side and made for the shore. Then Sorenser dictated terms. The chief would be re stored in exchange for all the pearl shell on the island and a crew to work the ship. These terms were final, and death for the chief was the only alternative. The shell was paid, a crew came aboard and Sorensen sailed, his white dupes in the forecastle

ecurely guarded. He sailed to the next island, and there be offered his white crew for sale to the chief of that island, a cannibal ruling over cannibals. Mind you, this is the story later told in Cookstown by members of this same crew who appeared to testify against their former captain. So Sorensen offered to sell his crew and the offer was accepted. Sorensen turned the whites over to the cannibal king of that island for a heavy price in Pearl shell and sailed away.

Now, it had happened that the ding containing the captain of the schooner Albert, who had been put over the side by Sorensen, drifted across the course of a kindly trader, who pulled the man out of the boat nearer dead than alive. It also happened that within two days this trad-ing schooner fell in with the British gunboat Dart, and the tale of Sorensen's trans-actions was told to the commander of that

The Dart took up the trail of Capt. Sorensen. It succeeded in tracing the Albert's movements to the island where the crew had been bartered. There the men were rescued from captivity before any of them had gone to the pot. Later the Albert was eighteen months. The article also bore overhauled at another island, and Sorensen was taken to Cookstown for trial. He got ten years and he served it.

> again to the Solomons, but his fame had preceded him and the German Governor of the province deported him without trial McLean said: and without hearing. Then it was that turer who is known along the Pacific coast from Mazatlan to Copper Island. Of Sandy

McLean Jack London wrote when he pic-tured Wolf Larsen in the "Sea Wolf."

It was in 1898 that Sorensen blew into San Francisco, wearing the big pearl on his finger and with his wallet filled with quartz so rich that the gold hung from it like con-Sorensen about like a dog and kept ht

pected of seal poaching and never caught and who came and went from San Fransisco under flags of nearly every one of the Central American republics, had just fin-ished building the Sophia Sutherland, a wift little schooner. He fell in with Soren sen and that quartz was a sweet bait for the big Scotch adventurer. He was one of the first stockholders in a company So ensen formed to prospect gold bearing ledges he knew of in the Solomon Islands. McLean put up the Sophia Sutherland and his services as skipper in lieu of cash. A

many more years of life, has organized about Sorensen than he would have liked a company—is even now organizing a comthat long lost treasure. The rester the company is not quite complete: that the incidents marking the cruise of

to Dunedin, New Zealand. There the Salving schooner will be fitted out and thence the cruise of the argonauts will and that he was aboard the Sophia Suthern tent.

that the captain could not see any newssophia Sutherland dropped back into Apia,
paper men. Whatever newspaper notoriety minus Sorensen. A sorry trip had been
had been given Capt. Sorensen's scheme theirs; several had died of fever; there was

Was Capt. Sorensen ever in the Solomon man holding a high judicial place for the dands? Why, yes; he was most famillar United States Government. Sandy McLean

adventurer and pirate of the South Seas, mood prefers that the story should break right there.

A day or so later Capt, Sorensen sent an attorney, James F. Egan, to THE SUN office to demand a complete retraction of the article, on the ground that nothing in the story was true. Mr. Egan admitted that he knew nothing about the early career of his client, and when Mr. Churchill was again questioned as ing Capt. Sorensen THE SUN was convinced that its duty to its readers was to make no retraction which would give Capt. Sorensen assistance in his proposed enterprise.

\$100,000 Suit for Libel. Capt. Scrensen then brought suit for libel, but in his complaint he objected to nothing in the article above the parato nothing in the article above the paragraph beginning with "In the early days of thirty odd years ago." When The Sun's attorneys were preparing the defence they found that Capt. Alexander Molean would be one of the most important witnesses, but he had no desire to come to the United States and finally consented to give a deposition. William Lee Chambers, former Chief Justice of the International Court of Samoa, now practising law in Washington, who was associated officially with Mr. Churchill when the latter was Consul-General for the United States at Apia, Samoa, fourteen years ago, agreed to come here and follow Mr. Churchill on the witness stand, telling of the things they knew in common telling of the things they knew in common and of other events which he had related to Mr. Churchill when they met here

ome years later. How Sandy MoLean Met Serensen.

Bandy McLean Met Serensen.

Sandy McLean went from Vancouver, B. C., to Montreal to testify before a commissioner concerning his knowledge of Capt. Scrensen. He stated that he was a citizen of the United States, 53 years old, and had begun seafaring in 1876. He became a master mariner in 1884, and since then has always had an interest in a vessel. Much of the time he has been in the scaling business.

Capt. McLean said he had heard that his life had been written up by Jack London in the novel "The Sea Wolf," and testified that a copy had been sent to him, he thought from the author. He didn't feel that he was the character portrayed in the book, although he had heard that he was.

Asked concerning his meeting with

heard that he was.

Asked concerning his meeting with Sorensen and subsequent events, Capt. McLean said:

"As near as I can remember it was in San Francisco in 1897 when he was promoting a company to go to the South Sea Islands for mining purposes. He had several samples of minerals that he had brought from the islands, as he said. He said they would assay \$5.000 to the ton. The minerals could be found in the islands in great quantities, he said, and he knew where. They were supposed to be in the Solomon Islands.

Off to the South Sea.

"The company formed was known as the South Sea Island Mining and Trading the South Sea Island Mining and Trading Company, and I was supposed to have a certain salary and stock for the three masted sohooner Sophia Sutherland, in which I had a part interest. It was finally arranged in the presence of Sorensen that the expedition was to sail on the Sophia Sutherland. The others on the expedition were those who had taken stock in the company, mostly all mechanics and clerks and business men. They were induced to subscribe through Sorensen, the promoter. The majority of these people were putting in the money they had saved from their wages. There were probably fifteen or sixteen such persons in the expedition."

Capt. McLean said that the Sophia Sutherland cleared from San Francisco

Capt. McLean said that the Sophia Sutherland cleared from San Francisco early in September, 1897, for Apia, Samoa. Aboard her besides the inexperienced stockholders of the expedition, were only four able seamen and the mate, besides Capt. McLean, who was navigator. Arriving at Apia. Capt. McLean went to William Churchill, then the American Consultabra and entered the vessel. Consul there, and entered the vessel.

Two or three days later McLean had a talk with Consul Churchill in the latter's office, and Mr. Churchill asked him if he knew anything about Sorensen's past history. McLean said he didn't. The Consul then told him that Sorensen had consultated that that sofenses had been in trouble in Australia, and introduced him to one Capt. Hamburg, who corroborated certain facts concerning Sorensen's history which had been told

Asked what the information was, Capt.

Asked what the information was, Capt. McLean, the man driving adventorer who is known along the Pacific coast rom Mazatlan to Copper Island. Of Sandy following and the man driving adventorer who is known along the Pacific coast rom Mazatlan to Copper Island. Of Sandy following and the confined him for ten years in the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the penitentiary. I was told that the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the genite penitentiary is the penitentiary. I was told that the got that the get and the penitentiary. I was told that the got that the get and that the British Government took him, had him tried and then confined him for ten years in the penitentiary. I was told that the got was engaged in a pearly that the get and that the mother thanks and the penitentiary. I was told that the got away with the crew and that the got away with the crew and that the penitentiary. I was told that the got away with the crew and that the got away w

crew by keeping a sharp lookout on Sorensen."

Capt. McLean said statements by Sorensen in a deposition that the members of the crew drank heavily at Samoa and came on board intoxicated were untrue. He never noticed any of the men intoxicated: they were not drinking people, although they might take something occasionally. The crew were all in good health when they sailed from Apia, McLean said he was taking half a dozen drinks a day but wasn't intoxicated.

"I don't believe I could drink sufficient liquor in one day to get intoxicated," he added.

After a ten days stay in Apia the Sorbic

were fifteen odd young mechanics and small pay clerks eager for adventure.

The bare bones of 166 men lying here in the sea about the wreck guard he secret, which of the living only Capt. Solomons in due time. En route it put into Apia, and in that fact lay Sorensen's quick misfortune. For there were two many more years of life, has organized a company—is even now organizing a company—is even now organizing a compony—to go out to Auckland Isle and dive for that long lost treasure. The rester the small pay clerks eager for adventure.

The Sophia Sutherland sailed for the Solomons in due time. En route it put into Apia, and in that fact lay Sorensen's quick missioner for the Western Pacific to visit the British Solomon Islands. Sorensen about Sorensen than he would have liked them to know. One of these was a Consult for one of the great Powers who had been to the Commissioner that the purpose of the expedition was to mine in the Solomon in the Solomon in the Solomon in the Solomon in the sufficient control of the company—to the company—to a com

the expedition was to mine in the Solomon Islands.

"He did not seem to encourage us in any way to go there," said McLean. "He seemed a little leery about something. It appeared to me from the information I had received in Apia that it was because he was aware of Sorensen. He said nothing to me on this visit, but I called on him again before leaving. We then went to the island of Ruavatu, in the Solomons, and I saw the British Resident Commissioner there. I applied to him for mining licenses. He said he would grant a license for every man who would take up a mining claim, but would grant none to Sorensen, because it appears Sorensen was not allowed to do business in the islands."

Treasure Island Barren; "Sea Wolf" Dis-

gusted.

Abandoned Sorensen in an Island Hut.

Abandoned Sorensen in an Island Hut.

"The next morning the Commissioner made up a statement and told me there were some small islands lying right across from us about two miles and a half from there, and there was a cabin or small hut on them, where I could land Sorensen and leave sufficient supplies to last him two weeks. He said there was a steamer coming along going to Australia and she would call there and he would take the steamer. I was told to leave sufficient money with the Commissioner to pay Sorensen's passage to Australia, and I left two pounds there.

"When I got back to the ship I met Sorensen on deck and showed him the island that the Commissioner had pointed out. I told him I was going to land him on that island, and ordered him to pack up his things and go along with the two men in the boat who were to take him. He hesitated about packing up, and I told him I would give him fifteen minutes to get ready. I called two men and sent them to his room to get his things out. Then when he saw we were getting them out of his room he gave them a hand, but the men practically did the packing."

Capt. McLean was asked if the testimony of Sorensen in a deposition that he and McLean parted good friends, and even shook hands, was true. McLean said:

"Well, it was just as I have stated, so

even shook hands, was true. McLean said:

"Well, it was just as I have stated, so I don't suppose his feelings were so friendly toward me that he would shake hands. The crew were all in good health at this time, and I don't believe there had been a man sick a day from the time we left San Francisco. We had ten gallons of liquor on board, but while Sorensen gave some of it to the crew he drank most of it himself. In fact, he poured hot water into the barrel to get what remained."

McLean's Men Sicken and Die; Runs the Ship Alone.

Capt. McLean said that the British Commissioner was anxious for Sorensen to get away from the islands as soon as possible because of the danger that he would stir up trouble with the natives. McLean said that about ten days after McLean said that about ten days after they abandoned Sorensen they called at a nearby island to prepare the Sophia Sutherland for the trip home to San Fran-cisco. Then some of the men took sick with malarial fever.

"Some of the men died and the balance we took back home." Capt. McLean con-

"Some of the men died and the balance we took back home." Capt. McLean continued. "A few days after leaving there more of the men took down with the fever and they commenced dying off. When I finally decided to put into Apia the men were dying off so fast that I had no help to handle the ship, and for two weeks I sailed the Sophia Sutherland single handed. I had four men left when I got to Apia, but they were all down with the fever. My own health was good until the fever broke out, and although it didn't seem to affect me I got practically worn out."

although it didn't seem to affect me I got practically worn out."

On this trip Capt. McLean saw the American Consul who had succeeded Mr. Churchill. He said he also saw William Lee Chambers, now of Washington, but then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Samoa, and related to him the result of the expedition. He told of the death of the men and stated that the voyage had been a complete failure and that he had left Sorensen on the island. He told Chief Justice Chambers of seeing Soren-Chief Justice Chambers of seeing Soren-sen's record in the blue book, he said.

Sandy MeLean and Jack London.

In concluding his direct examination McLean said he had no special objection to coming to the United States to testify. McLean said he had no special objection to coming to the United States to testify. On cross-examination he said he believed he got the copy of the "Sea Wolf" indirectly from Jack London, the author, and that while London may have pictured him in the character Wolf Larsen he couldn't say from reading the book that he was really the character. The sealing part of it resembled some of his experiences in catching seals, he said. McLean said he wasn't a "brutal, violent man," as Wolf Larsen was pictured to be. The incidents related were merely imaginary, a lot of stuff he put into the book," McLean said. "In writing the book I suppose Jack London had to take somebody in it, and I suppose he took me I have never objected, because I have never met London since."

McLean said he is now wanted in the United States for taking a ship called the Carmencita out of San Francisco under the Mexican flag and going seal hunting in the Bering Sea instead of to the place he had cleared for. He has been indicted for that, but the offence is punishable only by a fine. He said he didn't want to stand trial until he was ready, although he expected to be ready soon.

McLean denied that Sorensen had two

McLean denied that Sorensen had two parrots aboard the Sophia Sutherland and that McLean, angry because one of them bit him, wrung its neck, threw It on the deck, stamped on it and then hurled it overboard.

Ex-Consul at Apla Testifies.

Ex-Consul at Apla Testifies.

On his direct examination William Churchill testified that he had been manager of an editorial department of The Sun for six years. For three years, beginning in 1884, Mr. Churchill said, he was cruising in the South Sea Islands, engaged in scientific exploration. His purpose was to acquire familiarity with the language, manners and customs of the natives of the islands. To that end he contributed various collections in botany and biology. He has been familiar with the islands up to the present time, but was physically in touch with them between 1883 and 1888, and again between 1896 and 1898. In the first period he visited Australia and acquired much information concerning happenings in that part of the globe from Consuls, missionaries, British officials, army officers and officers of the British menof-war.

of-war.

"I first heard of Capt. Sorensen in New Caledonia in 1885," said Mr. Churchill.
"This is a French colony, but is part of the South Sea Islands. I gave the information about which The Sun article is based and my own information was acquired from three sources. The first, relating to the period of my first cruising through the Pacific, giving the story of the arrest and conviction of Sorensen for certain crimes, I obtained in conversation with naval officers and British residents, both upon cruises through Sophia Sutherland dropped back into Apia, minus Sorensen. A sorry trip had been theirs; several had died of fever; there was no gold; everything was buncombe, as the two men in Apia had warned.

But the sequel to that trip Sandy McLean told to several in Samoa, one of whom was a man holding a high judicial place for the United States Government. Sandy McLean told it with grim relish, for this man McLean is an implacable hater.

They had given Sorensen a fair chance to make good, McLean said, and when he cruised around among the islands, bluffing here and failing there, always holding out the lure of the trace, which he had charted on a map from which he had charted on a ma

there wasn't very much he could say.

"In the latter part of May, 1898, I reported back to the British Commissioner at Ruavatu that the expedition had been a failure and I stated that I wished to leave Sorensen on the island.

"The British Commissioner told me that Sorensen would not be allowed to remain on the islands on account of his previous record. He told me that Sorensen had once done away with his crew and seent them ashore, or something like that. He said it was on one of the Solomon Islands, He wished to know why I could not take Sorensen along, and I said I feared trouble on board ship—that Sorensen would be liable to kill somebody, or some of the crew might kill him. I said that if I had to take hold, and that when crossing the equator it would be so hot the man might die, and I would not like to have the responsibility of this death on my hands.

"The Commissioner told me he would consider the matter over night and for me to come ashore the next morning. Then he showed me Sorensen's record in the Blue Book which he had in his office. It contained records of happenings in the islands and in Australia and was for keeping track of parties that sorensen had taken a ship, and had been there that had committed any crime. There was a statement in the book that Sorensen had taken a ship, and had been tried and convicted.

Abandoned sorensen in an Island Hut.

And That He Was Caught and Tried.

"I learned at the time that the master who was turned adrift was picked up by one Capt. Hamburg, a trader, and I met Capt. Hamburg himself later. I first met him when he was trading in the New Hebrides, and the second time I saw him in Apis in 1897.—I had heard that after picking up the master of the Albert Capt. Hamburg cruised until he met a British gunboat—I believe it was the Dart—and he put the captain aboard the gunboat and told her commander the circumstances under which he picked up the master of the Albert. I was told that after the captain of the gunboat got this information he started out searching for the Albert, overhauled her and put a junior officer aboard and brought Sorensen to trial for these offences. I was told that his crew were rescued from the savages and taken to court to give evidence against him.

"I returned to the islands in 1896 as Consul-General for the United States for the Kingdom of Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga"

Mr. Churchill said that William Lee Chambers, in court as a witness for The Sun, was Chief Justice at the time Mr. Churchill was Consul-General. He first heard of Sorensen in that period when the Sophia Sutherland came there in 1897. Although Consul Churchill would have met Capt. McLean when the latter called to deposit his shin's papers, the meeting really took place before that.

"I was the first person to go aboard the Sophia Sutherland when she entered the Apia harbor, said Mr. Churchill, "following the visit of the health officer. I had issued orders that no one should go aboard until I had determined whether she had contraband arms on board. Later I sent for Capt. McLean and told him the story of Sorensen as I have outlined it in my testimony. The next day I sent for Capt. Mr. Churchill said that William Lee

until I had determined whether she had contraband arms on board. Later I sent for Capt. McLean and told him the story of Sorensen as I have outlined it in my testimony. The next day I sent for Capt. Hamburg, who had already identified Sorensen as the man he had known, and he also told the story to Capt. McLean. After the Sophia Sutherland had cleared from Apia for Suva I left Apia and returned to the United States."

Mr. Churchill said that he left Chief Justice Chambers on the islands, but saw him later, in 1899 he thought, when Chief Justice Chambers was here on visit and took dinner in Brooklyn with Mr. Churchill. They then discussed affairs in which they had shared in the islands, and one of these was the incident of the Sophia Sutherland. Mr. Churchill went on:

"Chief Justice Chambers then told me of matters happening after I left, of the return of the Sophia Sutherland to Apia, sailed by one man, of the four remaining members of the crew, of the loss of life, and of the report made by Capt. McLean to himself and to my successor. Gen Osborn. He told me of the unofficial reports brought to Apia of the treatment accorded to Sorensen by the crew of the Sophia Sutherland and of the statement by McLean that he had inspected the official record of the British Government concerning Sorensen's record."

Mr. Churchill then teetified that Chief Justice Chambers had made to him statements concerning the unsuccessful end of the Sophia Sutherland and of the statement concerning Sorensen's record."

Mr. Churchill then teetified that Chief Justice Chambers had made to him statements concerning the unsuccessful end of the Sophia Sutherland's hunt for gold, practically as testified by Capt. McLean, and that the British Commissioner was at first disinclined to permit the expedition to go to the islands to look for gold at all, and only consented after Capt. McLean had peaded that it was composed of many young mechanics who had put all their money into it. Considering this plea the Commissioner permitted them to go on 'to s

to see if Sorensen could put them upor this bank of prosperity. Sorensen Triced Up and Whipped.

"Chief Justice Chambers then told me the story of what happened after Sorensen was put on the lonely island," said Mr. Churchill. "This was that the crew of the Sophia Sutherland, without distinction as to the number of individuals, triced him up and lashed him with a whip or something convenient and left him there. Capt. McLean told this story freely to persons in Samoa and, it was commonly repeated in the hotels and along the beach at Apia."

Mr. Churchill said that when he met Sandy McLean the latter told him of the circumstances of the organization of the expedition in San Francisco, of how Sorenexpedition in San Francisco, of how Soren-sen and a man who is mentioned as the "big nigger" turned up in San Francisco "big nigger" turned up in San Francisco and were always seen together. Capt. McLean also told of Sorensen's evidences of prosperity and of the pearl as hig as a hazelnut which struck McLean's eye and of his specimens showing gold. Sorensen's story, backed up by the quartz and the pearl looked so promising that young mechanics and clerks on small pay were eager to invest their savings and go on the expedition. the expedition. the expedizion.

In conclusion Mr. Churchill said he had
the utmost confidence in the truth of all
the information he gave concerning Capt.

Sorensen
On cross-examination Mr. Churchill said that he had never seen the official record of Sorensen's conviction and didn't know of his own knowledge that any of the occurrences described had taken place. The official records are kept secret by the British Government he said dorensen

said.

Former Chief Justice Chambers, questioned by Herbert C. Smyth trial counse, for THE SUN, said that the International Court, over which he presided, was one of reculiar as well as extensive juris-

Ancestral Cannibalism.

diction.

Ancestral Cannibalism.

Did not questions of cannibalism come up in connection with land titles and did you not have cases where it was claimed that because the ancestors had been eaten by the successor that there was a merger of title?" asked Mr. Smyth.

Yes," replied Judge Chambers, "but there is no such thing as cannibalism in the islands now and hasn't been for many years."

Judge Chambers said he saw Capt. McLean both times when he put into Apia. Before the Sophia Sutherland got there there were rumors concerning her following the arrival of the newspapers from San Francisco. There was a condition of revolution in Samoa practically all the time, and the Berlin Treaty prohibited the importation of rifles and ammunition. It was reported from San Francisco that the ship was a filibuster and was loaded accordingly. Things were so quiet at Apia that the arrival of such an expedition put the town on the qui vive, said Judge Chambers. No guns were found aboard her. Judge Chambers said he met many of the young men in her crew when they came ashore.

"They teld to Send Gold Hunters Home." Judge Tried to Send Gold Hunters Home

Judge Tried to Send Gold Hunters Home.

"They told me where they were going and I tried to stop the expedition," said Judge Chambers. "I had been in Samos for four or five years before and was more or less familiar with such expeditions. I saw the character of these young men and I thought they were not only going off on a wild goose chase but I didn't know what might result. Then I sought out Capt. MoLean and had a talk with him along these lines and told him I didn't think these young men should be taken on an expedition of this sort."

Judge Chambers said that when the shells in the schooner Mary Anderson, and it was my first trip to the South Sea islands."

Six years later, he said, a shipping broker asked him if he would go out on an expedition for pearl shell, and he said he would go if he got proper inducements. Sorensen was engaged and his first job was to buy a vessel for 2175. Leslie, the man sending the expedition for trading. When he was ready he handed back £250.

While his vessel was in the harbor of Cookstown there was a hurricane which blew it up on a sand hill three-quarters

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Sophia Sutherland returned to Apia after its unsuccessful trip Mr. Denvers, the clerk of his court, who was also publisher of a newspaper there, came to him with an account of the ship's troubles which he proposed to publish. He advised Mr. Denvers not to publish the story, but later told Mr. Churchill what was in it. This related to the alleged happenings which Mr. Churchill testified Judge Chambers had told him. McLean's Story of 1911 the Same in 1898.

The witness said he also talked with Capt. McLean, who told of his application to the British Commissioner for mining licenses and of the Commissioner's refusal to issue one to Sorensen. McLean had told him that the Commissioner, in the complete of the commissioner is to be the commission of the com

refusal to issue one to Sorensen. McLean had told him that the Commissioner, in explaining his reason for refusing to let Sorensen have anything to do with the search for gold, had told the story of Sorensen's piracy and conviction, and showed the record in the Blue Book.

"McLean also told me that fever broke out among these young men and the crew, and first one and then another died and was thrown overboard, and that several days before he arrived at Samoa all but four of them had been shipped off to a hospital at Sydney. When he landed in Apia these four young fellows were in an emaciated condition because of fever, and for several days, as McLean told me, he navigated the ship alone."

Judge Chambers said that additional information came to him from his two sons, one of whom was registrar of titles, and the other generally heard everything that was going on. This story was that when the sailors landed Sorensen on the island they tied him to a cocoanut tree and flogged him, and then the ship sailed away. The Judge told these stories to Mr. Churchill when he visited him here

sailed away. The Judge told these stories to Mr. Churchill when he visited him here several years later, he said.

On cross-examination Judge Chambers said that Maxey, the British Consul-General at Apia, had told him of seeing the record of Sorensen's conviction in the Blue Book he had. He said he didn't think THE SUN would have been able to get a copy for use at the trial because its information is secret.

"If you knew that McLean did not dare to come into the State of New York and take the stand in this case because he is wanted here for a crime, would that have any bearing upon the credit you would give to his statements?" asked Henry Hirschberg of counsel for the plaintiff.

"No, I think he ought to keep away. He has not been convicted, and it is his business to keep out of the jurisdiction that might convict him. I do not think any less of a man for keeping out of the way of the court."

Serensen Speaks for Himself.

Sorensen Speaks for Himself.

On direct examination by Mr. Egan, his attorney, Capt. Sorensen said that he was born in Denmark in 1848 and came here in 1859, when he was eleven years old. He lived in a boarding house at 51 Market street until 1868, he said, when at the age of 13 years and nine months he joined the navy and was accepted as 14 years old. He enlisted as Peter Peterson and became a messenger boy. He said that while he was in the navy the Merrimac fought the Monitor and he was in the battle aboard the Susquehanna. He was in the bombardment of Fort Fisher for four days, he said, and was discharged in 1865, He joined the navy again in 1867, he said, this time under his own name, and his collarbone was broken at Yokohama when he was caught between a coal barge and his ship. He was discharged as a coxswain in 1870 and with his discharge papers became a citizen of the United

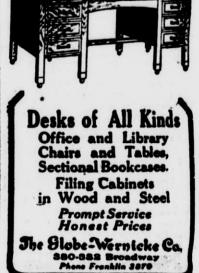
coxswain in 1870 and with his discharge papers became a citizen of the United States and got a grant to 160 acres of land. The papers were stolen from him in a sail-ors' boarding house and he was not able Helped Raise Old Ironsides.

Helped Raise Old Irensides.

Capt. Sorensen said he had been out of employment at Philadelphia for five weeks, when he got a job helping to raise Old Ironsides, which had been sunk off League Island. They broke him in as a diver there, and he "fetched that vessel up in pieces." He became ill because he had to dive through a hole in the ice and he went to the south of France to regain his health. Then he shipped on merchant vessels. In 1878 he went from England to New Zealand on an emigrant ship as boatswain. He fell in love with a girl on board, whom he married after they got to New Zealand. He took charge of a sawmill there and had one of his fingers cut off. His wife's relatives came out from England and settled at Auckland, and he and his wife moved there. He was a diver in the harbor department five years. He produced testimonials from persons who had employed him as diver.

"In 1877 a firm in Auckland got a loan of me for a year," said Capt. Sorensen. "They were fitting out an expedition to explore the South Sea islands for pearl shells in the schooner Mary Anderson, and it was my first trip to the South Sea islands."

Six years later, he said, a shipping broker asked him if he would go out on an



of a mile away. Failing to get other help, he told a native Queensland chief of his trouble, and for all the biscuits, salt meat and beans he had on board he got several thousand natives to dig a channel through which the vessel was hauled out to sea at high tide. The vessel went out for a trip of eight months and rent out for a trip of eight months an returned with a cargo worth \$10,000.
This vessel was named the Albert, but in 1884, when trouble between England and in 1884, when trouble between England and Russia was pending over the Afghan frontier, the owne rof the boat told Sorensen that he had a mind to put the vessel under some little foreign flag because she was likely to be seized by a Russian in case of war. Sorensen tried to put her under the Danish flag, but couldn't get permission because he didn't have his papers, but the owner put the ship under the Portuguese flag and her name was changed to the Douro. Sorensen said he hauled down the British flag in front of the noses of three British men-of-war. The shipping articles of the Douro were introduced in evidence.

Says South Sea Stories Aren't True.

Says South Sea Stories Aren't True. The value of the cargo when the Dourseturned was about \$7,000. Sorenses said that on that voyage or at any other time he did not abandon his captain in an open boat and he did not drive the crew into the forecastle with a revolver when the Dours reached the Solomon group. He said that when the boat was in the harbar he often sent for the carminal chief. he bor he often sent for the cannibal chief, be-cause he had to do business with the chief, but never got a chief full on gin and never Continued on Fifth Page



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